



**Re: Swinomish proposal on Tribal water quality project**

Michael Cox to: Lisa Chang

Cc: Cox.Michael

05/10/2011 02:36 PM

Lisa: a few comments

**1. Quality Assurance Plan**

- I think it would be important to have a QAPP for this project. They are collecting field information and in order for the data to meet our requirements they need a QAPP.

- This would include the various elements of a QAPP: sampling design, sample collection, sampling protocols, etc.

- Maybe USGS already has one from past sampling efforts and they would need an amendment, but it was not clear from the proposal

**2. Use of data**

- I did go to the website cited in the proposal and it does have a nice presentation of the data by location.

- However, I am not sure how the data is used after this.

- Do they anticipate the different tribes will use or Ecology will use?

- They talk a little in the outcomes but not very specific how they will use

Any questions give a call.

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Lisa Chang

Hi Mike, Thanks so much for shopping this arou...

05/10/2011 10:02:58 AM

From: Lisa Chang/R10/USEPA/US  
To: Michael Cox/R10/USEPA/US@EPA  
Date: 05/10/2011 10:02 AM  
Subject: Swinomish proposal on Tribal water quality project

Hi Mike,

Thanks so much for shopping this around. I've cut and pasted the abstract below, and am attaching the proposal for convenience as well.

Lisa

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Since 2008, the Coast Salish Nation and Swinomish Indian Tribal Community in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has examined the coastal waters of the Salish Sea providing a new strategy that blends western science and Coast Salish culture to study water-quality and its effects on ecosystem dynamics. The foundation of the study is the annual Tribal Journey, whereby canoe families traveling their ancestral highways collect surface-water samples producing 4 or 5 simultaneous water property profiles across the Salish Sea. The results are disseminated near real-time via the web ([www.usgs.gov/coastsalish](http://www.usgs.gov/coastsalish)) helping to identify impaired water bodies (e.g. algae blooms) and conditions worthy of subsequent study. In addition to in-situ water samples, canoe pullers and scientists, traveling together, collect observational data providing context for the quantitative data. Local indigenous knowledge shared during the Journey helps guide the TJWQP's focus and provides unprecedented

opportunities to learn about the Salish Sea's natural history in ways science alone can not offer. The exchanges made between science and traditional knowledge within indigenous communities along the Journey facilitate increased awareness of ecosystem issues, conservation and stewardship.

Through the partnership, USGS provides valuable synthesis and interpretation of scientific measurements, helping to quantify environmental patterns, identify areas of impairment and through time, detect changes and trends related to land use and climate change. These results are used to implement follow-up studies with Coast Salish and partners seeking improved understanding of ecosystem vulnerability. The information collected during the annual Tribal Journeys can be used to advise Coast Salish Leadership in making policy decisions regarding Salish Sea resources.

[attachment "Swinomish - Tribal Journey Grant.doc" deleted by Michael Cox/R10/USEPA/US]